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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 002619

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: SPANISH RESPONSE: RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN SYRIA

REF: STATE 142629

Classified By: Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Political Counselor, for Reasons 1  
.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) We delivered reftel demarche on July 6 to Enrique Mora, Director of the MFA's Office of EU Foreign Policy and Common Security. Mora was not able to give an immediate reaction, but later spoke to Poloff on July 9. He stated that Spain and the EU share the general concern with the USG regarding the human rights situation in Syria. Mora said that the EU would deliver a demarche to the Syria government either on July 13 or 14 requesting that Syria clarify their reasons for detaining persons mentioned in our talking points.

2. (C) Mora said that the EU was still looking for a Syrian official who could accept the demarche. He said that Syrian officials and diplomats are often reluctant to accept negative messages, as they can face retribution from the higher levels of the Syrian government. Mora stated that while the EU does not believe that President Bashar al-Assad is likely to support democracy or radical changes in the Syrian regime, he is better than his father. Mora said that the EU sees a reformist faction in Syria and hopes to approach the Syrian human rights situation in a manner that advances the reformers.

3. (C) We also delivered the demarche to Juan Manuel Cabrera, Director of the MFA's Office of Human Rights on July 6. Cabrera had no comment at that time and we will report any response we receive in the future.  
MANZANARES